

Letter Variations

for piano

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Note on the edition:

The previous edition has been reformatted for ease of use, now showing one variation per page, in alphabetical order, and with individual sequences of bar numbers for each variation. Some typographical errors were corrected, and/or some purely cosmetic changes were made. The following textual errors were corrected:

- Variation C, bar 14: a D is transposed two octaves and is now a dotted half-note.
- Variation F, bars 3 & 4: a passage was relocated to another staff. Bar 9: the sustain pedal may be kept depressed during first bars of the repeat, as indicated by a dotted line. Bar 12: the low F is only held during this bar.
- Variation R, bars 8 & 9: the low A in bar 9 is no longer slurred with the chord in bar 8.
- Variation X, bar 16: whole notes in the left hand, instead of half notes.

No other changes were made to the music, but a little clarification was added to performance notes.

Performance notes:

Any number of variations may be played, in any order. The sequence of the variations in the score is not definitive. Dynamics and especially tempi are approximate and may be ignored wholly or in part. Most variations will respond well to moderate amounts of rubato, or a gently swinging performance. Most will also benefit from a gentle slowing down at the end, followed by a small pause before the next variation begins (in variations with a fermata on the last bar and/or empty bar(s) at the end, the pause is mandatory). Still others may be arranged in a sequence that flows smoothly without interruptions between individual variations.

The small fragments of text included must not be read aloud or understood, in any context, as titles of individual variations.

Letter Variations

Variation B

Jashiin
2008

Piano

$\text{♩} = 60$

Red.

the needs of the other or of us both

7

Red.

13

Red.

Variation C

1 $\text{♩} = 90$ the world is a golden glow

Piano

6

7

12

13

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Variation D

1 $\text{♩} = 60$ the light of the gods poured down on us

Piano

mp

p

5

mp

Variation F

4

1 $\text{♩} = 100$

Piano

15^{ma}

distant, their features obscured, or disappearing

7

8^{va}

Ped.

12

8^{va}

Ped.

Variation G

cloudless vault of sky overhead

1 $\text{♩} = 90$

Piano

f *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Ped. Ped.

9

f trm

Ped.

15

p *f* *p*

trm *tr*

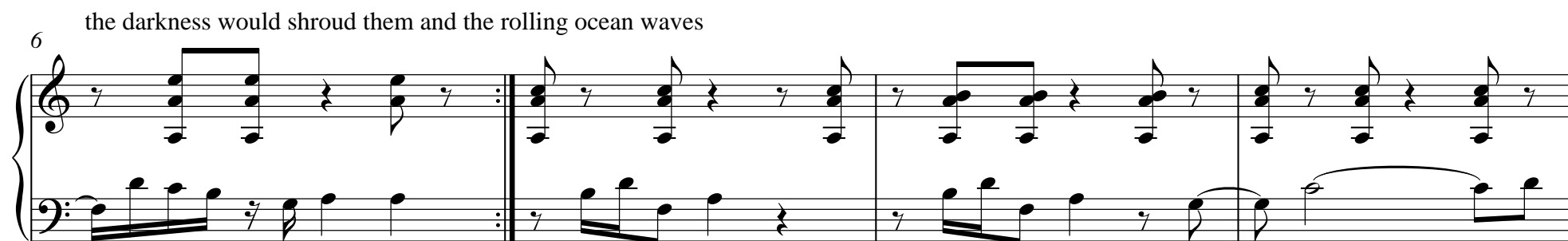
Variation H

1 $\text{♩} = 200$


Piano



6 the darkness would shroud them and the rolling ocean waves



10



Variation J

1 $\text{♩} = 65$ the whole of your life, and for one reason

Piano

p

p Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

8

Ped. Ped. Ped.

Variation K

8

1 $\text{♩} = 80$ sympathy, not judgement

Piano

7 $\text{♩} = 70$

13

Ped. _____ Ped. _____

17

_____ Ped. _____

Variation L

1 $\text{♩} = 55$ the only light still on

Piano

p *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *pp*

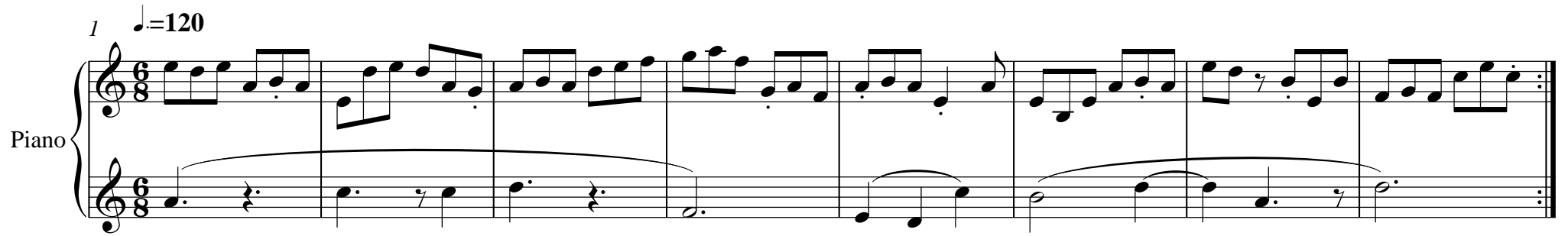
5

p *Ped.*

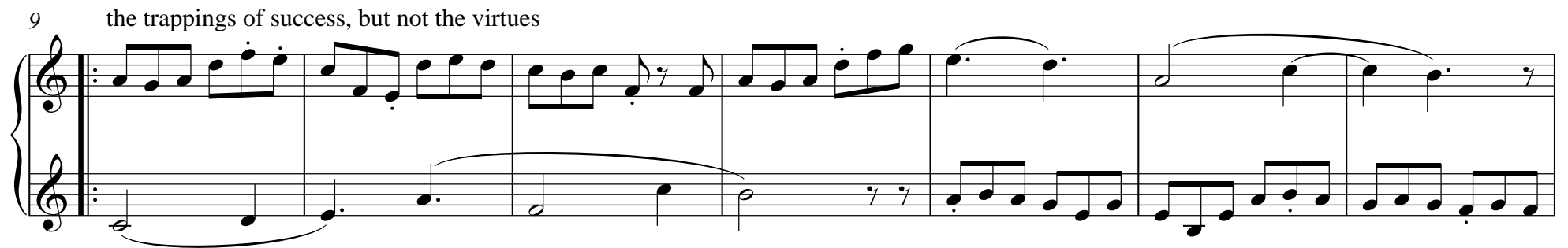
Variation M

1 $\text{♩} = 120$

Piano



9 the trappings of success, but not the virtues



16



Variation N

1 $\text{♩} = 70$ that moment there was nothing

Piano

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

6

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

10

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

Variation P

12

1 $\text{♩} = 85$ a surprising array of common things

Piano

7

14

19

Variation Q

1 $\text{♩} = 100$

Piano

until there is nothing left of you for me to hate

Ped.

9

Ped.

15

Ped.

Variation R

1 $\text{♩} = 70$ wind and dark waters rising

Piano

5

9

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for piano and is in 4/2 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked with a tempo of quarter note = 70 and includes the lyrics 'wind and dark waters rising'. The melody in the right hand is characterized by slurs and ties, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melodic and accompanimental lines. The third system (measures 9-12) concludes the variation with a repeat sign and a final cadence. The overall mood is somber and atmospheric, reflecting the lyrics.

Variation S

1 $\text{♩} = 90$ like a secret being told

Piano

5

Variation T

1 $\text{♩} = 75$ letting the whole sky sparkle softly

Piano

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Ped.

5

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

Ped.

Variation V

1 $\text{♩} = 100$ to allow my mind to wander, my fantasies to overcome reason

Piano

Ped.

8

Ped.

Variation W

18

1 $\text{♩} = 100$ rit. $\text{♩} = 100$

Piano

p *f* *p* *p* *f*

p a euphoric sense of well-being *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

7 *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

13 *f* *p* *f* *p*

17 *f* *p* *f* *p*

p *f* *f* *p*

Red. *Red.*

Variation X

1 $\text{♩} = 90$ remember in a perfect recursion

Piano

mf

Ped. _____

8

Ped. _____

14

Ped. _____

Variation Z

1 $\text{♩} = 85$

Piano

p *p* *mp*

p hidden in the raw music of the tumbling water

9